

Bangalore Mirror

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Euro 91.36

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BLAZE DAZE

Popular tourist spots around Bengaluru getting destroyed due to fires caused by negligence, deliberate acts

PAGE 6



EVIL SPIRITS

Multiple unprovoked attacks in city after dark by intoxicated groups or individuals spark safety concerns, police step up night patrolling

PAGE 7

Unlicensed makeshift food stalls keep springing up in city, even as officials express concerns over dangers of unhygienic practices, use of banned taste enhancers, poor-quality ingredients

IN BAD TASTE

Other than sporadic raids, no strict enforcement of penalties

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Unlicensed roadside eateries are springing up across Bengaluru and in the outskirts, raising concerns about food safety and hygiene. These makeshift food stalls, catering to the increasing number of foodies, are allegedly using banned taste enhancers and poor-quality ingredients, putting public health at risk.

Health hazard

Sources said that with rapid commercial and residential expansion, the number of street food vendors, pushcart eateries, and makeshift mini-hotels has surged. These vendors, operating without proper hygiene standards, are accused of serving substandard food, potentially leading to severe health consequences. "Food stalls have mushroomed along major roads, public spaces, and factory zones around Bengaluru. While the affordability of these eateries attracts daily wage workers and travelers, the use of banned artificial powders and unhygienic cooking practices remain unchecked," said a health department official.

Regulatory oversight fails

Despite sporadic raids by the Food Safety and Standards Department, enforcement remains



“One of the biggest concerns is the widespread use of plastic sheets to serve hot food. When food comes in contact with plastic, harmful chemicals and microplastics seep into it, which, over time, can accumulate in the body and cause serious health issues

— Health dept official

largely superficial. Many street vendors and eateries continue operations without licences, while authorities fail to conduct

rigorous inspections on bakeries, industrial canteens, and restaurants. Reports suggest that some vendors use plastic sheets while

preparing and serving food, despite the known health risks of plastic contamination.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

Fill in the blanks

Notice inviting objections, suggestions from public on removal of 214 trees fails to mention essential info



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A public notice by the Karnataka Forest Department inviting objections and suggestions from the public on removal of trees for a road widening project has perturbed some citizens and city-based tree activists.

The notice is based on a request submitted by the Public Works Department to remove 214 trees obstructing the Bangalore-Dommasandra road widening project. The trees are claimed to be standing on the project site, from Carmelaram Bridge to Muttanallur Cross in Sarjapur.

"The list contains trees with approximately 80 feet height and girth of roughly five to six feet. The notice has a set of lists of trees proposed to be felled and a couple of them do not mention tree species. The absence of species names has made it difficult to verify if these numbers are credible. It has raised questions on the accuracy of the data," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust.

Experts point to directions given by the Karnataka High Court in 2020 regarding tree felling applications and public notices.

Court's orders

According to directions issued by the HC, the tree felling applications are required to have the survey number and extent of the land from which trees are to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Timeless tribute

In honour of legendary dancer Rukmini Devi, for Smriti Pravah 2025, Archita Mehta's Nrietya Sadhana Centre for Bharatanatyam and Indian Folk Dances, and Tripti Bhupen's Samarpan School of Performing Arts, will take a journey into her creative world, where she preserved Bharatanatyam's traditions while innovating within its structure. **Where:** Bangalore International Centre, Domlur; **When:** March 9, 6 pm



02 Improv and acting

The Reluctant Hustlers are organising Fevicol, an improv show that celebrates the strong, magical bonds of friendship that tie us together. The Reluctant Hustlers are a team of improvisers, actors, storytellers and movement artists who are passionate about Improv. **Where:** Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; **When:** March 2, 6:30 pm

03 Motivation & meditation

In an event organised by Brahma Kumaris, Koramangala, Sister BK Shivani, international motivational speaker and television icon of Brahma Kumaris, is speaking on "It's time" - Check - Change - Become. She will also launch Bangalore's biggest meditation drive. **Where:** Koramangala Indoor Stadium; **When:** March 2, 4:30 pm

04 Book Release

Atta Galatta is organising a book release for No Place to Call My Own, an intimate portrait of millennial disquiet in a mercurial, volatile world, with author Alina Gufran, who will be in conversation with acclaimed poet Jeet Thayil. **Where:** Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; **When:** March 1, 6 pm

05 Art exhibition

Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) is presenting Memory Vessels, an art installation by internationally acclaimed Dutch artist Bouke de Vries. Through the installation, de Vries challenges traditional notions of restoration, embracing imperfection to create sculptures that redefine beauty. **Where:** Museum of Art & Photography, Domlur; **When:** Open since Feb 20

Mahashivaratri festive rush outpaces costs

Shopping continues in city despite rising prices, with high demand for pooja essentials; while wholesale prices surge for jasmine and kanakambara

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The shopping frenzy in the city markets continued despite rising prices, as many Bengalureans celebrated Mahashivaratri on Wednesday. Devotees were seen eagerly purchasing essential items for Shiva Puja, including flowers, bilva leaves, tulsi, dhavan, and bael fruits. With increased demand, wholesale prices of jasmine, kanakambara, and kakada flowers surged, while marigold, chrysanthemum, and dark pink roses remained relatively affordable. However, retail vendors were seen selling these flowers at pre-

**Jasmine is now
₹1,000-Rs 2,000
per kg, and
kanakambara is
₹500-Rs 600 per kg**

mium prices based on the locality. The cost of essential pooja items, especially bilva leaves, saw a sharp rise, with betel leaves being sold at ₹5 for three leaves. On the bright side, vegetable prices remained stable, as Mahashivaratri is traditionally observed with fasting, leading to increased demand for fruits. While wholesale fruit prices remained stable, retail vendors took advantage of the festival by charging inflated rates.



Devotees offering prayers on Shivaratri at various temples in the city, on Wednesday



At KR Market, wholesale flower prices saw a surge, with jasmine priced between ₹1,000 to ₹1,200 per kg, and kanakambara at ₹500 to ₹600, while chrysanthemum, rose, and tuberose remained reasonably priced. Bilva leaves were sold at ₹20 to ₹30 per branch. At Horticultural Producers' Co-operative Marketing and Pro-

cessing Society (HOPCOMS), drumstick was sold at ₹122 per kg, large coconut at ₹59, medium coconut at ₹53, flat beans at ₹56, beans at ₹50, country carrot at ₹42, capsicum at ₹40, ivy gourd at ₹36, white brinjal at ₹34, round brinjal at ₹25, radish at ₹25, beetroot at ₹25, and tomato at ₹22. Essential pooja items like bael fruits were

priced at ₹20 to ₹25, bilva leaves (small branch) at ₹20, and sacred leaves (dhavan, maruga) at ₹10 to ₹20 per bunch. Shivappa, a flower vendor at KR Market, stated that the flower demand for Mahashivaratri is moderate, and is mainly for temple decorations. He said that jasmine and kanakambara prices surged due to limited supply.

Manipal Hospitals hosts "The Living Threads"

Manipal Hospitals hosted "The Living Threads" Human Library Event, providing a platform for open conversations on healthcare, caregiving, and challenges faced by senior citizens. Inspired by the Human Library concept, the event replaced books with personal stories, fostering dialogue and connection. The event featured 19 participants, including three speakers, who shared their experiences on cancer care, senior citizen care, and caregiving. Attendees engaged with stories based on personal connections, professional relevance, and curiosity.

The featured stories included



'When the Crab Came Visiting', where Veena Sateesh shared her journey with breast cancer, 'RE-START', in which Rama Narayanaswamy discussed senior citizen care and her work at Athashri, and 'Full Circle', where Arpan Panicker recounted his experiences as a caregiver for aging parents. Participants, including cancer survivors, educators, and professionals, contributed insights that enriched the discussions. The Living Threads, showcased Manipal Hospital's commitment to fostering meaningful conversations, and building stronger, more connected communities. — BMB

National Horticulture Fair 2025 kicks off

The National Horticulture Fair 2025 will begin from Thursday at Indian Council of Agricultural Research- Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (ICAR-IIHR), Hesaraghatta, under the theme "Horticulture for Viksit Bharat: Nutrition, Empowerment, and Livelihood." The event will showcase over 250 advanced horticultural varieties and technologies aimed at enhancing nutrition, empowering farmers, especially those from economically weaker sections, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. The fair is expected to see participa-



tion from around 250 institutions, including ICAR institutes, State Agricultural Universities, private industries, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), NGOs, and entrepreneurs. It will feature exhibitions, demo plots, and expert-led programs on crop development, post-harvest management, value addition, and agricultural machinery. Expected to draw over 75,000 farmers and stakeholders, the event will serve as a platform for knowledge exchange, innovation, and the advancement of India's horticulture sector. — BMB

Rare planetary alignment

Nearly the entire solar system will align this fortnight, offering a rare opportunity to witness a spectacular astronomical event. The Sun and the Moon will set between 6:41 pm and 6:50 pm in the constellation Aquarius, while Saturn, Neptune, Mercury, and Venus will align in Pisces, positioned to the west. Due to Pisces' low position and twilight haze, Saturn, Neptune, and Mercury may not be visible to the naked eye. However, Venus in Pisces, along with Jupiter and Uranus in Taurus, and Mars in Gemini, will be visible, completing the solar system's alignment. This celestial phenomenon will not occur again until 2040, making it a once-in-a-lifetime sight for skywatchers. — BMB



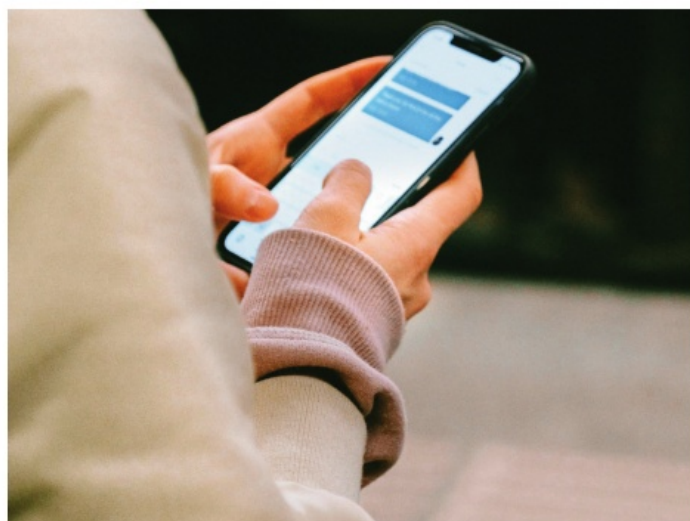
Text alert: Friend in need... turns out to be conman

Fraudster clones businessman's Whatsapp number, sends out SOS, makes off with Rs 60,000

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The CEN police station (central division) is on the lookout for a person who duped a businessman after cloning his WhatsApp and making away with Rs 60,000. The fraudster hacked a businessman's account and used his identity to request money from his friend, managing to deceive him into transferring Rs 60,000.

The victim, who received the message from his friend Raju's (name changed) WhatsApp number, was told that he needed urgent financial help while attending the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. Trusting the request, the victim asked for payment details and transferred Rs 60,000 in two transactions through Google Pay to the UPI ID



provided in the message.

However, when the victim later contacted Raju over a phone call to confirm, he was shocked to learn that his friend had never asked for money. Instead, Raju revealed that his WhatsApp number had been hacked by an unknown fraudster, who used his identity to scam others. Realising that he had been deceived, the victim immediately lodged a police complaint, seeking action against the cybercriminal.

A case has been registered

and further investigations are underway. This case serves as a reminder of how cyber fraudsters are now using WhatsApp cloning techniques to dupe unsuspecting individuals by exploiting personal trust.

Experts' warning

WhatsApp is a widely used messaging platform, and cybercrime experts advise users to verify financial requests by calling directly before making any transactions. They also recommend ena-

bling two-factor authentication (2FA) on WhatsApp to enhance security.

Mirza Faizan Asad, a cybersecurity expert, shared how the increasing incidents of WhatsApp hacking and cloning pose a serious cybersecurity threat. "Fraudsters are exploiting vulnerabilities by hijacking users' WhatsApp accounts or duplicating their profiles to deceive contacts into transferring money under false pretences. This is not just a case of identity theft but a sophisticated social engineering scam that leverages trust to manipulate victims," he told BM.

With the rise in digital transactions, he also stated how it is important for users to enable 2FA on WhatsApp, avoid sharing OTPs or sensitive details, and verify financial requests through alternate means before transferring money.

Experts say that the law enforcement and cybercrime units need to enhance digital forensic capabilities to track down perpetrators, while platforms like WhatsApp must strengthen security measures to prevent unauthorised access. Public awareness and vigilance remain the strongest defense against such digital frauds, they say.

Cryptocurrencies worth Rs 23.94 crore seized

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has seized virtual digital assets worth Rs 23.94 crore, along with crucial evidence, in connection with the ongoing probe into the Gain bitcoin scam. The nationwide searches were conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday across 60 locations, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune, and Chandigarh.

The GainBitcoin scam was launched in 2015, promising investors 10% monthly returns on Bitcoin investments for 18 months. The fraudulent scheme, structured as a multi-level marketing (MLM) plan, lured investors with high commissions for referrals. During the latest searches, the CBI seized hardware crypto wallets, 121 documents, 34 laptops and hard disks, 12 mobile phones, and data. —BMB

Retired teacher's murder: Man on run nabbed

The accused in the 2022 murder of retired Navodaya School teacher S Prasanna Kumari has been arrested after evading capture for two-and-a-half years. The accused had been hiding in Tirupati. The 68-year-old teacher was found strangled to death in her residence in Ambabhavani Layout on September 8, 2022.

Investigations revealed that her neighbour, T Nagendra, had plotted the crime. Nagendra had two associates, including Irfan from Andhra Pradesh. Nagendra and another accomplice, K Namaraj, were arrested and they remain in judicial custody. However, Irfan managed to evade arrest by frequently changing locations. Police finally tracked him based on a recent lead from one of his acquaintances. —BMB

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Voices against Art Park in Cubbon Park grow louder

Regular visitors to Cubbon Park have appealed to Horticulture Department not to allocate land to private entities

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Environmentalists and walkers have upped the ante against the proposed Art Park in Cubbon Park. A group of regular visitors have appealed to the Principal Secretary of the Horticulture Department not to allow private entities to establish the Art Park in Cubbon Park.

They submitted a letter to the Deputy Director (Cubbon Park) on February 20. Bangalore Mirror published a story, 'Art for farce's sake' on February 17, that walkers noticed a group inspecting the park for the proposed Art Park, which could consume 35 acres, endanger trees, and disrupt reptile habitats.

A group of citizens under the banner 'We Cubbon Park' submitted a letter to the Deputy Director op-



(Above) File photo of walkers; (below) group of walkers submitting letter to the Deputy Director, Cubbon Park

posing the proposed allocation of a portion of Cubbon Park's land to a private entity for an Art Park. They emphasised that even non-public areas are integral to the park's ecosystem and warned that privatisation would set a dangerous precedent, threatening its historic and ecological integrity.

The group demanded a complete prohibition on altering the park's landscape, constructing new structures, or privatising any section. Instead, they urged the horticulture department to focus on improving visitor amenities, such as safe walking spaces, clean drinking water, streetlights, pedestrian crossings, enhanced security with CCTV, better sanitation, and waste bins. They insisted that any future developments or proposals be subject to transparent discussions involving the public,



environmentalists, and stakeholders.

Additionally, the letter stressed the need to protect the park's flora and fauna from any commercial or infrastructural projects, even if labelled as "sustainable," as they could disrupt the ecological balance. The



“The letter emphasised protecting park's flora and fauna from commercial projects, even those labelled 'sustainable,' as they could disrupt balance

group also reiterated their demand to permanently ban vehicular traffic through Cubbon Park, calling it the only sustainable solution to preserve this vital green space.



BM had reported on Feb 17 about citizens' worry over plan to set up Art Park in Cubbon Park

PWD submits request to remove trees for road-widening project

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be felled. The applicant is also required to produce a survey sketch along with a khata extract and certificates from the tehsildar regarding the tenure of the land.

It should also have information about heritage trees in the list of the trees proposed to be felled.

"As per the order, the applicant should also state if the number of trees to be felled can be reduced by slightly changing the alignment of the project or by executing the project in a different but viable location. However, this aspect is missing in the application," said a city-based expert.

Whither tree committee

Activists also stress on the important role that the Tree Expert Committee has to play, given the current scenario of Bengaluru's depleting green cover. "Bengaluru is losing its trees faster than ever before. TEC should be more stringent in granting permissions," said an activist. Notably, data from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) shows that over the past five years, the city has lost more than 15,000 trees to make way for various development and infrastructure projects, such as metro lines, suburban rail lines, and road widening. Out of these, nearly 4,000 trees were cut in 2024.

IISc's 'Zero Bacteria' tech to aid sewage treatment

To improve the quality of sewage treatment plants (STPs) in apartment complexes, scientists from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed an advanced 'Zero Bacteria' technology. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is considering its implementation, according to BWSSB Chairman Dr. Ram Prasath Manohar. He said that BWSSB has formed a task force in collaboration with IISc and the Central Ground Water Authority to promote efficient use of groundwater and implement sustainable measures for groundwater recharge. Monitoring of community borewells is also part of this initiative.

Groundwater misuse

To prevent groundwater overuse, BWSSB has adopted advanced artificial

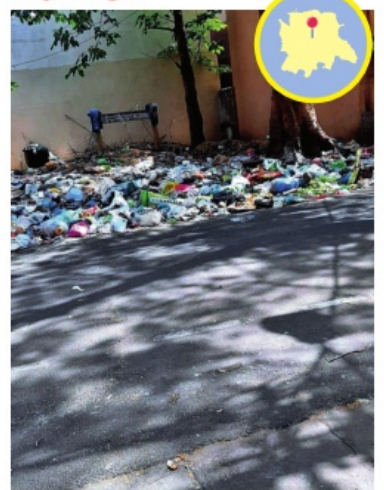
intelligence technology. Groundwater levels have already been measured, and appropriate strategies have been devised to store and utilise groundwater efficiently during summer. As water security becomes increasingly critical, there is a growing need for new technological solutions, he added. "A significant amount of wastewater is generated from apartment complexes in Bengaluru. Following National Green Tribunal (NGT) directives, most apartments have installed STPs to treat and reuse water for gardening and cleaning. Additionally, excess treated water can be sold. However, concerns over the quality of treated water were raised by developers through CREDAI." Dr Manohar emphasised the need for scientific recommendations to address the drinking water crisis and optimise wastewater treatment. — BMB

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Garbage spot

Jayanagar



A vacant site on 10th C Main Road, next to Hindi Prachara Samiti compound, opposite Jayanagar 1st Block, is filled with trash.

Defective installations

Yelahanka



Streetlight poles installed near Prestige Monte Carlo Apartments, Yelahanka New Town, about a year ago, remain in poor condition.

Accident zone

Vasanth Nagar



A pothole on Race Course Road, opposite Hotel Race View, Ward 93, Vasanth Nagar, is posing a hazard to motorists.

Claim tribunal must specify nature of accident injuries: HC

'Merely describing them as grievous or simple does not give understanding of disability while granting compensation'

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The Karnataka High Court has emphasised that Motor Accident Claim Tribunals must specify the nature of injuries sustained by accident victims and explain how these injuries affect functional disability, particularly considering the victim's occupation and circumstances.

Justice CM Joshi said, "In umpteen numbers of judgments of the Tribunals, this Court observes that the nature of the injuries and the manner how it would translate into functional disability are seldom discussed.

The Tribunals are jumping to the conclusion on the basis of the disability stated by a medical officer." He noted, "A non mentioning of the nature of the injuries suffered; or describing them simply as grievous or simple; would not reflect that the Tribunals had applied their mind to the nature of the injuries."

He added, "It is necessary that the officers who are manning the Tribunals are to be sensitised with the requirement of mentioning the nature of the injuries suffered by the injured in the judgments. Without the description of injuries and correlating it to the disability, it is not possible to infer that the Tribunals had applied their mind to assess the functional disability."

The court instructed the Karnataka Judicial Academy to



develop training programmes accordingly. This direction emerged during an appeal hearing by the Branch Manager of New India Assurance Co. Ltd, contesting a Tribunal's judgment that awarded Rs 10,11,000 to Ramesh Davkatte.

The insurance company contested that the judgment was mechanical. The court noted confusion in the Tribunal's approach regarding the 1/3rd deduction for personal expenses, rendering the judgment unclear.

The court observed that despite mentioning 1/3rd deduction for personal expenses, the Tribunal applied a multiplier of 13, resulting in erroneous compensation calculations.

Upon reviewing the records, the bench found no description of the petitioner's specific injuries in the judgment. While injuries were

termed grievous, there was no explanation of their nature or contribution to functional disability.

The court concluded, "Therefore, the basis on which the disability was assessed is not available in the judgment." After examining the medical officer's deposition and relevant certificates, the court determined, "When the nature of the injuries suffered by the petitioner is considered in the light of the deposition of the PW.2, it can safely be said that there is a functional disability of 20%.

The petitioner had sustained a non-union and as such the physical disability stated by PW. 2 at 31% can be held to translate into the functional disability of 20%."

Subsequently, the court partially allowed the appeal, reducing the compensation from Rs.10,11,000 to Rs.4,54,800.

Accused in baby theft sentenced to 10 years

A Bengaluru court has sentenced Rashmi, the accused in the Vanivilas Hospital baby theft case, to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment along with a Rs 1 lakh fine. The verdict was delivered by the CCH-51 judge on Friday.

A newborn was stolen from Vanivilas Hospital in 2020, leading to a complaint being registered at

Chamarajpet Police Station. The investigation was later transferred to the Basavanagudi Women's Police Station.

After a year-long investigation, then-inspector Meenakshi successfully tracked down and arrested Rashmi. A charge sheet was later filed, and following the court trial, the accused has now been convicted. **BMB**

Man dies in late-night bike accident

A late-night motorcycle accident on JP Park Tank Bund Road resulted in the death of a 30-year-old man in the early hours of Wednesday. The victim, Arun M, who was riding a Royal Enfield bike lost control and skidded and fell.

According to the police report, Arun was riding without headlights. He was heading towards Chowdesh-

wari Bus Stop from JP Park when he lost balance, fell, and was dragged along with the vehicle for a short distance. His father, M Muruganandam (60), later filed a complaint at the Yeshwantpur Traffic Police Station.

The impact of the fall left Arun severely injured, and his motorcycle was also damaged. The Yeshwantpur Traffic Police have registered a case.

Gambling den was operating near top cop's office

An illegal Andar Bahar gambling den was secretly operating just 50 metres from the city police commissioner's office for the past two months, unnoticed by officials.

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) recently busted the operation, arresting 12 individuals and seizing Rs 53,400 in cash during a late-night raid at Nisarga Garden Hotel.

Acting on a tip-off, the CCB conducted a raid on February 22 at 11.55 pm and the authorities seized 52 playing cards, a mat, and a bed sheet used for betting.

During interrogation, the prime accused, Basavaraju, admitted to running the gambling den for two months, charging Rs 500 from each player. **BMB**

Stamps dept staff strike postponed

The Karnataka Registration and Stamps Department Employees' Association has postponed its indefinite strike, initially scheduled for Thursday, demanding the fulfillment of 15 key demands.

The association had called for a statewide shutdown of public services to protest issues such as amendments to the Registration Act without consulting department officials, extended

office hours, harassment under the pretext of information requests from the Income Tax Department, and staff shortages. Responding to the association's appeal, Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner KA Dayanand provided a written assurance on Tuesday. Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh said concerns would be addressed and instructed officials to submit a list of issues. **BMB**

BBMP election by year-end?

With the introduction of a new bill for the division of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the state government is preparing to conduct elections by the end of this year. This is after the civic agency has been without elected representatives four four-and-a-half years.

However, instead of conducting polls within the existing BBMP limits, the plan is to expand its jurisdiction by adding new areas and dividing it into three to five municipal corporations.

The tenure of the last elected representatives ended in September 2020, but elections have been repeatedly delayed. During the BJP government's tenure, a separate BBMP Act was introduced, and the ward delimitation process led to further postponements.

After coming to power, the Congress government decided to divide BBMP and implement the Greater Bengaluru Bill, caus-

ing additional delays. Now, with the bill in its final stages, it is expected to be approved in the Legislative Assembly session scheduled for March. Then the government has expressed its intent to conduct elections by August or September and has submitted an affidavit to the Supreme Court regarding the same.

3 to 5 municipal corporations

According to sources within the government and senior Congress leaders, BBMP is likely to be expanded with new areas and then divided into three to five municipal corporations. This restructuring would invalidate the existing 223 wards created under the BJP government, necessitating the formation of new wards. If BBMP is split into three corporations, each would have 125 wards, whereas a five-corporation model would allocate 75 wards per entity.



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Tourist hotspots around B'luru facing fire heat

Officials say reckless tourist behaviour such as careless disposal of cigarette butts and matchsticks leads to devastating blazes

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Several popular tourist destinations around Bengaluru are facing severe fire hazards due to negligence and deliberate acts of vandalism. These fires are causing widespread destruction to natural landscapes, wildlife, and vegetation, raising concerns among environmentalists and authorities. Shivagange,



Recurring forest fires are destroying trees and shrubs, killing small animals and birds

Mahimaranga Swamy Hill, Avalahalli Betta, Nandi Hills, Makalidurga, Hulkudi Betta, Kundana Betta, Siddara Betta, Ghati, Baradi Betta, and Manne, among others, attract visitors from across India and abroad. However, during the peak summer season from January to April, incidents of fire outbreaks have been increasing, damaging both the scenic beauty and the ecological balance of these sites.

Threat to wildlife and ecosystem

Many of these destinations also serve as religious sites and are home to a variety of birds and animals that thrive in the region due to its rich vegetation and water sources. However, recurring forest fires are destroying trees and shrubs, killing small animals and birds. Nesting birds and their eggs are particularly vulnerable to the flames, further endangering local biodiversity.

Negligence a major cause

Tourists, local vendors, and shopkeepers often discard cigarette butts and bidis carelessly, igniting dry grass and leading to uncontrollable fires. With

visitors frequenting to these destinations year-round, authorities are urging caution, especially in forested and hilly areas. "Visitors must refrain from carelessly discarding matchsticks and cigarettes. Even a small fire can escalate into a major disaster. If a fire is spotted, locals should try to put it out immediately using fresh leaves or water to prevent it from spreading," said NG Gopal, President of the Karnataka State Children's Literary Council.

Need for immediate action

Fire and emergency services personnel stressed the need for swift action to contain fires in their early stages. Fire Officer Siddahonnappa noted that local residents should take immediate measures to douse small fires before they spread, as fire brigades often struggle to reach remote locations in time. "By the time we receive information and reach the site, the fire has often spread extensively. Timely reporting and local intervention can help prevent large-scale damage," he added.

Basava D, a travel operator, stressed the need for proactive steps from authorities to protect these sites

A small spark can turn into a disaster—awareness and quick action are crucial

— Fire officer

from fire hazards. Tourism, forestry, and religious departments must implement necessary precautionary measures. Tourists and locals should refrain from igniting fires and take responsibility for extinguishing minor ones before they escalate. Using fresh leaves or water can help control small fires and prevent them from spreading, he said.

Despite recurring fire incidents at these tourist spots every year, the lack of adequate preventive measures remains a serious concern. Officials are also urging farmers in nearby areas to exercise caution while burning agricultural waste, as these fires can easily spread to surrounding forests and hills. Additionally, travellers and commuters have been advised to stay alert and take immediate action upon noticing a fire to prevent large-scale disasters and safeguard the region's biodiversity.

IN BRIEF

Global standards, climate change take centre stage at spice conference

The third day of the International Spice Conference (ISC) 2025, hosted by the All-India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF) in the city, focused on policy advocacy through a panel discussion titled "Policy Advocacy: The Critical Role of Industry Bodies." A key challenge highlighted was the lack of harmonized global standards. Exporters face hurdles due to varying regulations on maximum residue limits (MRLs), food safety protocols, and labeling requirements across different countries. The conference also featured discussions on contaminants, regulations, and the impact of climate change on pest infestations, emphasizing the need for adaptive strategies in the spice sector.

— BMB

Dire state: HC okays compassionate appointment

The Karnataka High Court has directed a co-operative bank in Sirsi, Uttara Kanna district, to review a woman's application for a compassionate appointment, considering her family's financial struggles.

Justice M Nagaprasanna observed that the case exemplifies the need to consider such appointments when there is no legal barrier, especially as the petitioner's family continues to struggle financially. The court also instructed the petitioner, Veena, to submit an undertaking to the bank, pledging to care for her mother if appointed.

Veena's father, Venkatesh Shet, had worked as an attender at the Kanara District Central Co-operative Bank Limited for 32 years before passing away in 2007. After repeated requests from her mother, the bank hired Veena as a contract attender. However, her contract was not renewed after February 2021, prompting her to approach the high court.

— BMB

PUBLIC NOTICE

High Court of Karnataka at Bengaluru
Order dated : 26th Day of September,
2024, Writ Petition No. 13659 of 2024
C/W

Writ Petition Nos. 17208 of 2024,
18606 of 2024, 19011 of 2024
& 19012 of 2024

Yelahanka: Survey numbers 33/1, 33/3, 33/5, 34/2 and 34/3 of Kenchenahalli village in BBMP's chowdeshwari ward under Gantiganahalli Gram Panchayat in Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk are agricultural lands, which has been illegally sold as sites by people who have no title to the lands and houses have been built here illegally without any land conversation and layout plan approvals and BBMP plan approvals for building. Present land owners, Venkataramana, Uma venkat and Azmat Ullahkhan said. According to the genuine land records, we are the land owners. Previous land owners Abdul Raffeekeh (sy no. 34) Mariyappa(sy no.33) had brought this land in 1995 and sold it to Sham Sundar Batija & Anju Ahuja in 1996. Mariappa died in 2004. Shyam sunder batija and Anjuahuja had sold it to Azmath ullah Khan. Azmathullah Khan had sold party of land to Venkataramana G and Uma Venkat. This is the correct flow of title to the land. After death of mariappa, his fake GPA was created by Salim and others and same agricultural land was made into sites and sold them to gullible buyers. Saleem and others with support of deceased mariappa family and Sainik vihar resident association have created a various fake document stating of land and cheated several site purchasers. Almost all site purchasers had filed case against land owners and failed in court and cases dismissed. Thasildar has ordered for demolition of houses and layout. High court has given direction to thasildar and police department to demolish unauthorised layout. The site and houses in these survey numbers are unauthorised occupants and trespassers in agriculture land belonging to Azmath ullah khan and venkataramana and uma venkat. They have filed petitions before BBMP also but the BBMP is turning a blind eye towards construction without any plan approvals, he said. He clarified that if anyone has done illegal site sale business on their above survey numbers land, they have nothing to do with it. Some houses are still being constructed and there is no sanction plan for these either. Land owners have already petitioned in high court, thasildar, BBMP, BESCOM in this regard and has urged them to take legal action immediately. They have expressed confidence in the law of land and constitution. Whatever site sale transaction has happened in their land in above survey numbers are based on GPA in the name of deceased person and GPA executents are not land owners on dates of said bogus GPAs. Land owners have urged press people for help to protect their constitutional rights over their lands and to give public awareness so that no new people are trapped in this fraudulent activities.

Wildlife activist alleges CSR violation by wind power firm

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In written complaints sent to Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre and the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), a wildlife activist has raised concerns over a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity by a wind power company in Karnataka.

The activist has requested a detailed probe into the matter as the company was found in violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 (VSESA, 1980). The complaint pertains to a vehicle received by the Belagavi Forest Division of the Karnataka Forest Department under CSR.

According to the activist, the division has already received one vehicle from the wind power company, with more expected to arrive soon.

"It is important to investigate whether the vehicle has been provided by the same company under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Authorities should also verify if the vehicle was purchased using funds given by the agency as part of a pending penalty payment. Additionally, it is also important to verify whether the vehicle(s) are linked to CSR, penalty payments, or any other financial if it was due", said the letter.

Notably, a couple of years ago, the regional office of MoEF&CC conducted a site inspection while reviewing the renewal of forest clearance for



221.80 hectares of forest land in Jogimatti and Marikanive forest ranges of Chitradurga district, where a Wind Power Project had already been established. The inspection report had recommended action against the company for violating VSESA, 1980.

It is further alleged that the same user agency applied for wildlife clearance, but its request was deferred by the State Board for Wildlife, Karnataka, in October 2024.

According to the complaint, the company was also responsible for violating VSESA, 1980, while executing a Wind Power Project in Belagavi district, as per a report submitted by the then Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF) in February 2014. "Some of the reported violations include constructing buildings without permission, utilizing forest land beyond the approved limits, cutting jungle wood trees, and encroaching on forest land. The PCCF (HoFF) had also stated in the 2014 report that, given the multiple violations, he had recommended in April 2013 that the Karnataka government cancel or forfeit the lease under Section 82 of the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963," the complaint highlights.

Fear on the streets: Drunken violence leaves city on edge

Rising cases of unprovoked attacks in Bengaluru spark safety concerns, with multiple incidents reported in recent days; police step up night patrolling as residents call for stricter action

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

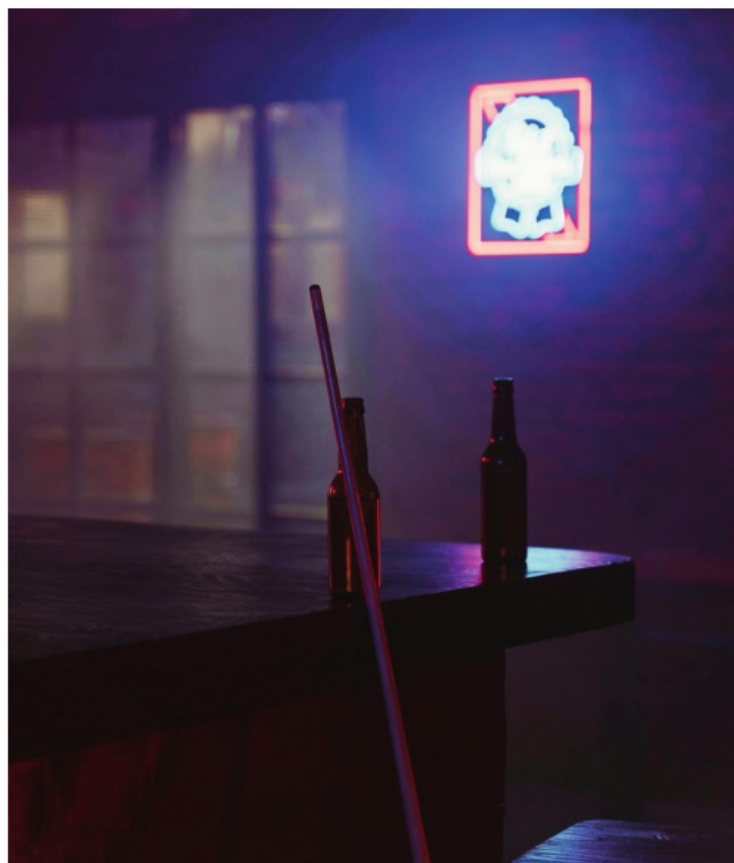
The city's nightlife turned chaotic Monday night as intoxicated individuals attacked pedestrians and motorists. A woman was attacked with a knife near Bilishivale Circle under Kothanur police limits on Monday after she refused to give a man money for alcohol. The victim, Nagalakshmi, was on her way to KR Puram when the accused, Anand, approached her around 4 pm and demanded money. When she refused, Anand left the spot but returned with a knife and attacked her, slashing from her left ear to her chin.

Locals came to Nagalakshmi's rescue and rushed her to the hospital, where she is currently recovering. Police said Anand, who was under the influence of alcohol, asked people for money and resorted to violence when denied. The accused has been taken into custody, and further investigation is underway.

Unprovoked attacks and fear among commuters

On Monday, at approximately 11:37 pm, a couple and their relative riding a two-wheeler on Hesarahatta Road were suddenly confronted by a group of intoxicated young men. The men aggressively approached them and launched an unprovoked physical attack, targeting the husband and his sister. The attack left the victims distressed as they struggled to defend themselves. The assailants fled upon sensing possible intervention, but the incident left a lasting impact.

A similar act unfolded on Febru-



ary 14, around 11:40 pm, near the Hulimavu Metro Station on Bannerghatta Road. A couple and their friend were set upon by two unidentified men who emerged from a car in a drunken stupor. With no provocation, the assailants attacked them, leaving the young man with injuries to his face. In an attempt to capture evidence, the woman tried to record the incident on her phone, but the perpetrators snatched it from her before fleeing. A police complaint has been filed.

These back-to-back assaults have ignited a wave of concern among residents. The growing fear of unprovoked violence in public spaces demands immediate intervention from law enforcement. The Bengaluru Police confirmed receiving multiple complaints regarding inebriated individuals causing public disturbances. "We have taken cognizance of the matter and have increased night patrolling in high-risk areas. Strict action will be taken against anyone found creating a

"We have taken cognizance of the matter and have increased night patrolling in high-risk areas. Strict action will be taken"

—Police
nuisance under the influence of alcohol," said a senior police officer. Further, the Bengaluru Police have urged the public to report any incidents of drunken misbehaviour or harassment immediately. Emergency helplines have been activated, and efforts are being made to deploy additional security personnel in hotspots.

As the city grapples with this issue, the question remains—how safe is Bengaluru after dark? For now, commuters are advised to stay vigilant and take necessary precautions while travelling late at night.

A Twitter user commented on the incident, saying, "Many residents and passersby are apprehensive about unruly behaviour but don't speak up. Crowds hanging around bars create a nuisance and traffic problems. Police need to monitor the conditions outside local bars and take necessary action against drunk misbehaviour."

Citizens and commuters say this is not an isolated event. "Public spaces are increasingly becoming unsafe due to the presence of drunk individuals creating a nuisance. We see people consuming alcohol and sleeping on footpaths, near parked vehicles, past midnight while walking home from nearby places or anyone walking on footpath will feel scared," a commuter said.

Domestic dispute ends in murder

A family dispute turned tragic on Shivratri as a man killed his wife and later died by suicide in Mubarak Nagar, Tigalarapalya, under Byadarahalli police station limits.

Suresh (40), an autorickshaw driver, reportedly had frequent arguments with his wife, Mamta (33), over financial and household responsibilities. According to police sources, Suresh was irregular in his work and neglected his family's needs, leading to repeated conflicts between the couple.

On the day of the festival, tensions escalated, resulting in a heated altercation. In a fit of rage, Suresh strangled Mamta to death before killing himself. Neighbours, who sensed something was amiss, alerted the authorities. Byadarahalli police arrived at the scene and are investigating the incident.

The couple had two children, who were not present at the time of the incident. Police have sent the bodies for postmortem. — BMB

Traffic cop caught taking bribe

A traffic constable from Whitefield station is under scrutiny for allegedly demanding a 500 bribe from a two-wheeler rider caught violating a one-way rule on Friday.

The incident took place near Varthur Lake Road, when the biker who is a private firm employee was intercepted by the constable Manjunath.

Although the rider agreed to pay the 1,500 fine and requested a receipt, the constable instead insisted on a 500 transfer to his Paytm account in exchange for letting him go. After some deliberation, the biker transferred the amount and later filed a complaint, providing the payment receipt as evidence.

Following the complaint, the Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic) launched an investigation, and the constable was summoned for questioning. — BMB

Residents' groups face scrutiny for unlawful fees

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Here is a caution for unregistered residents' welfare associations that have been collecting money from residents to maintain their respective residential apartment complexes. Based on complaints lodged by the residents, the police may register the first information report (FIR) and file a charge sheet against the executive committee members of such unregistered residents' welfare associations.

For example, Avalahalli police registered an FIR on May 9, 2023, based on a complaint by Dr Prema Mistry, against the PTA Owners Association, Bommenahalli near Bidarahalli. The FIR was registered under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act



1986 and Sections 506, 34, 384, and 420 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) Act, 1860. According to the FIR, the Prestige Tranquility Apartment Association members have not availed permission from the government department concerned to start an association. "The association members are collecting Rs 360 from each flat

owner for water that was supplied for Rs 200 by private water suppliers. There are eight borewells on the apartment complex premises but the association members claimed that only two borewells are functioning," the FIR read.

The police filed a charge sheet against six members of the PTA Own-

ers Association on December 12, 2024, under Sections 504 and 149 of the IPC. "The Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 and Sections 420 and 384 of the IPC were dropped due to the failure of the complainant to produce the required documents," the charge sheet read.

Meanwhile, Dr Prema Mistry, the complainant, has said that she submitted all the required documents to the police.

However, Keshav Govind Bhagavat, accused No 2 in the charge sheet, said that he was not aware of any FIR or a charge sheet against him. "You are referring to the FIR registered on May 9, 2023, and the charge sheet filed on December 12, 2024. I was the president of the Prestige Tranquility Apartment Association till 2019. Now I am not holding any position in that association. I am also not attending its meet-

ings. I did not receive any information from the police station. I have nothing to do with the FIR and the charge sheet," he said.

Ambarish K Bhatnagar, accused No 1 in the charge sheet, said, "I have no link to the charge sheet mentioned. Once I receive a copy, I will respond to your questions."

Solution

Meanwhile, Karnataka Home Buyers Forum Sanchalak Dhananjaya Padmanabachar said the state government has not come out with guidelines on the registration of residents' welfare associations. "We request the Chief Minister of Karnataka to give directions to the people of Karnataka by bringing a new Apartment Act by establishing Sakshama Pradhikara for Apartments as committed in their election manifesto in 2023," he said.

No oversight on street food vendors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Exposure to hot food on plastic surfaces can release microplastics, which, when ingested, have been linked to serious illnesses, including cancer.

Cancer cases

A health department official said that a recent health department survey in Bengaluru Rural district confirmed 140 cases of cancer, including 21 cases of oral and throat cancer, 15 cases of breast cancer, and 92 cases of cervical cancer. The rise in such diseases has raised suspicions about the role of unsafe food preparation

methods. Bengaluru Rural Deputy Commissioner Basavaraju AB has vowed strict action against vendors found violating food safety norms. Between 2024 and January 2025, the district administration inspected 311 food preparation units, issuing notices to 55 and imposing fines on 27 for non-compliance.

A health department official said, "Many of these roadside eateries operate without proper hygiene standards or licences. The use of banned taste enhancers, low-quality ingredients, and artificial food colours can lead to severe health risks, including food poisoning, digestive disorders, and long-term illnesses

like cancer. One of the biggest concerns is the widespread use of plastic sheets for serving hot food. When food comes in contact with plastic, harmful chemicals and microplastics seep into it, which, over time, can accumulate in the body and cause serious health issues, including organ damage and it has carcinogenic effects."

He said that many vendors fail to store raw materials properly, leading to bacterial contamination that can trigger infections, particularly among children, elderly individuals, and those with weaker immune systems. "Our inspections have revealed that many of these vendors



do not undergo food safety training or quality checks. Public awareness and stronger enforcement are necessary to tackle this issue. Consumers must be cautious about where they eat, and authorities must take stringent action against those endangering public health with unhygienic food practices."

Authorities stress the urgent need for surprise inspections and stricter regulatory measures to ensure food safety and curb the unchecked growth of illegal eateries. However, enforcement needs to be strengthened at the grassroots level.

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I, GAYITHRI H S, residing at 24,16th Main, AGS Layout, Bangalore - 560061, have changed my name to GAYATHRI H S, vide affidavit dated 15/02/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

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Andrea Jeremiah turns producer

Popular actress Andrea Jeremiah, who has also proven her abilities as a singer, has now turned producer with director Vikranan Ashok's upcoming Tamil film, 'Mask', featuring actor Kavin in the lead

Thursday, February 27, 2025

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KEEP THE DISTANCE

Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor recently attended Sanjay Leela Bhansali's birthday celebration, where they were surrounded by paparazzi. A video surfaced showing a fan grabbing Alia's hand for a selfie, prompting Ranbir to step in and protect her. The couple's stylish appearance added to the event's glamour.

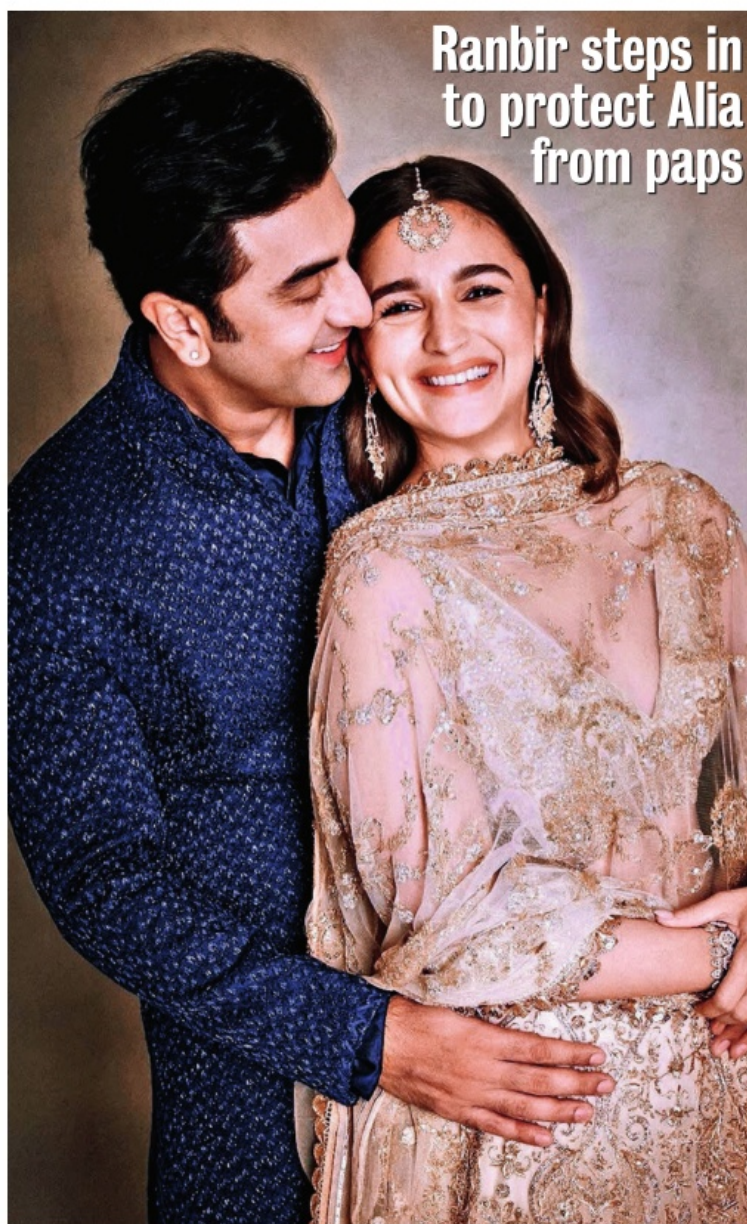
A social media user shared a video of Alia and Ranbir heading to the venue. A fan came too close and grabbed Alia's hand for a selfie. Alia calmly tried to free herself, waving as she walked with her husband. Ranbir spoke to the fan, who then let go, after which he held Alia close.

The moment the video went online, social media users criticised the fan's behaviour. One person commented, "People have no etiquette." Another user pointed out, "Folks need to learn how to behave. Alia is a celebrity, a person, not something anyone can just claim. Would they have had the nerve to grab someone else's hand? Still, Alia was classy enough to smile through it."

A few fans praised Alia for her composure, with one user commenting, "Alia being so humble." Another fan expressed sympathy, writing, "Scared and still has to smile... sad." Meanwhile, a fan appreciated Ranbir's protective gesture, saying, "Ranbir doing a husband's duty."

On the work front, Ranbir will next star in Nitesh Tiwari's 'Ramayana' as Lord Rama. The film also features Sai Pallavi, Sunny Deol, Yash, and Ravi Dubey and will be released in two parts starting in 2026. Meanwhile, Alia will appear in the YRF spy film 'Alpha' with Sharvari. The couple will also star together in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Love & War', which includes Vicky Kaushal and is currently in production.

—ETimes



Ranbir steps in to protect Alia from paps

High praise

Vicky Kaushal's latest film, 'Chhaava', has impressed audiences with his powerful performance. Fans and critics are loving the movie. Bollywood stars like Alia Bhatt and Anupam Kher have praised Vicky's acting. Triptii Dimri, his 'Bad Newz' co-star, called the film 'truly unforgettable.'

Taking to her Instagram stories, she shared a scene from the film and wrote, "Every time @vickykaushal09 takes on a role, he gives it his soul...and Chhaava is proof of that once again... It was powerful, intense, and truly unforgettable. Super proud of you,

Vicky @rashmika_mandanna. You lit up every frame with your presence, effortlessly charming. The hard work and passion of the entire team are visible in every detail. Big cheers to team Chaava; you guys crushed it @laxman.utekar."

The film, which was released on February 14, is a grand historical film that tells the inspiring story of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the eldest son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

As the film gets its success, Vicky shared on



Instagram a heartfelt note that reads, "No longer an 'unsung' hero! Thank you, everyone... Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj ki Jai."

Vicky Kaushal was spotted at Sanjay Leela Bhansali's birthday bash in Mumbai, where he met Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor. The trio will soon be seen together in Bhansali's much-awaited film 'Love & War.' On the other hand, Triptii Dimri celebrated her 31st birthday in a peaceful nature retreat. She spent the day with her rumored boyfriend Sam Merchant and close friends, cutting cakes and capturing pictures of flowers and sunsets.

—PTI

A period drama



Veteran director Kodlu Ramakrishna, known for Anant Nag-starrer Udbhava, that was released more than three decades ago, has come out with a period drama based on a fiction novel with similar title by Bhagya Krishnamurthy. The director has not only selected a good subject, but also managed to get a suitable cast for this movie.

The movie is about Sharavathi (Ragini Prajwal), the daughter-in-law of a temple priest (Ramesh Bhat). Sharavathi, who is familiar with the British loot and atrocities in the country since childhood, supports and sympathises with her brother-in-

SHANUBHOGARA MAGALU

3.0
RATING



• **DIRECTOR** Kodlu Ramakrishna
• **ACTORS** Ragini Prajwal, Kishore, Ramesh Bhat, Sudha Belawadi, Niranjan Kumar Shetty, Padma Vasanthi
• **CERTIFICATION** U/A
• **Duration** 127 minutes

law Vittala (Niranjan Kumar Shetty) who associates with freedom fighters. Tipu Sultan also known as Sultan (Kishore) happens to see Sharavathi at a temple. Smitten by Sharavathi's beauty, he craves for her hand but

only to realise his mistake and repent. Meanwhile, the British officers kidnap Sharavathi. What happens to Sharavathi is what Shanubhogara Magalu is all about.

Ragini, the better-half of actor Prajwal Devaraj, deserves appreciation for playing the lead with aplomb. Ragini, who is a classical dancer, walks away with all honours for her sterling performance in some scenes especially the scene where she bids goodbye to an infant and handling a firearm in another scene. Kishore, who portrays Tipu Sultan, is impressive. His dialogue delivery and gestures are superb. Niranjan Kumar Shetty has acted well. Ramesh Bhat, veteran director Joe Simon, Padma Vasanthi, Sudha Belawadi, Vanishri have provided good support.

The director has tried to adapt the novel Shanubhogara Magalu into this movie with the available resources.

BA Madhu's dialogues are punchy and meaningful. Cinematographer Jai Anand has done a commendable job behind the camera.

The movie would have been better if the director could make the scenes related to Tipu Sultan richer. For example, we see Tipu Sultan visiting a temple along with two or three followers and in a few scenes he is seen alone. These scenes look incongruous.

It is worth a watch for those who crave novel-based movies.

—Y Maheswara Reddy



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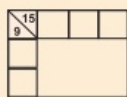
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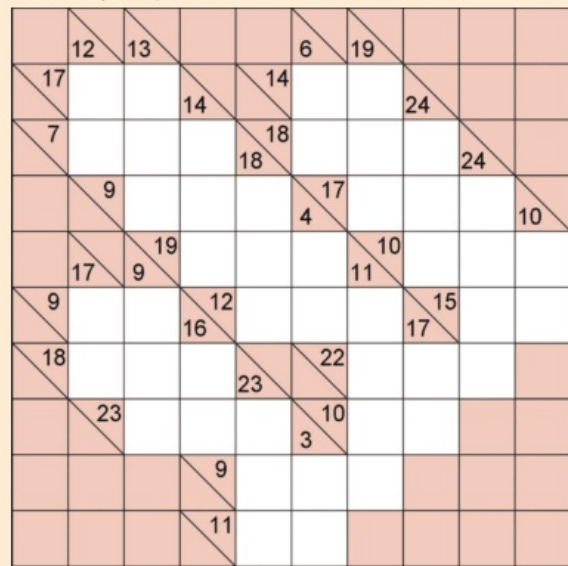
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

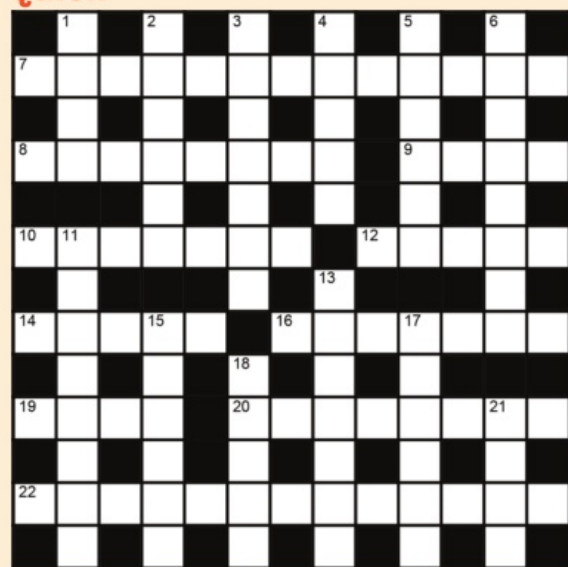


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 7 Quarrelsome (13)
- 8 Figurative (8)
- 9 Rage (4)
- 10 Commissioned soldier (7)
- 12 ____ of : via ? (2,3)
- 14 Worth (5)
- 16 One of the Apostles (7)
- 19 And others, in Latin (2,2)
- 20 Finding out (8)
- 22 Corroborations, verifications (13)

DOWN

- 1 Body of soldiers (4)
- 2 Capital of Maharashtra (6)
- 3 Answered or responded (7)
- 4 Glued (5)
- 5 Lacking fresh air (6)
- 6 Pull ahead of (8)
- 11 Subdivision (8)
- 13 Restaurant at the Leela Place (7)
- 15 Elevate (6)
- 17 Form of bowling (6)
- 18 Watchful (5)
- 21 Highest single digit (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS G
GSY ZNUG HYTGWDOJ GSWCV
WC GSY ENKJQ WU, ND FNOKUY,
GSY ENKJQ WGUJYD.



Linemaro

It took three tries to approach you; I kept losing my breath



Mindchow

Happiness is not something readymade. It comes from your own actions



Joke of the day

Did you hear about the man who got cooled to absolute zero? He's '0K' now.

Loop

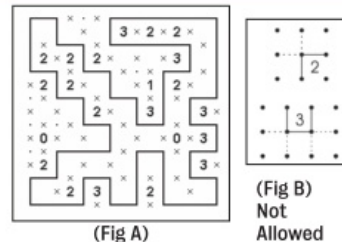
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

How to begin:

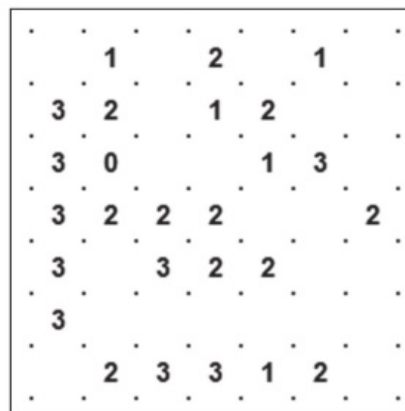
Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

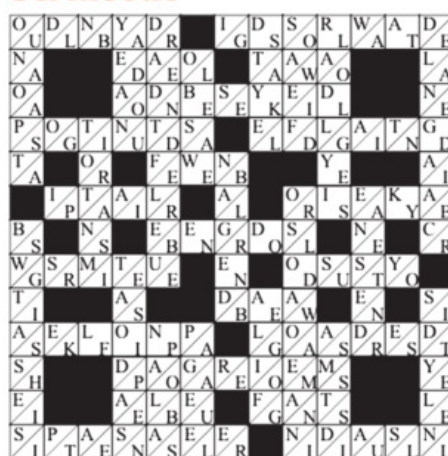


(Fig A)

(Fig B)
Not Allowed



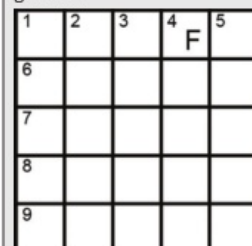
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

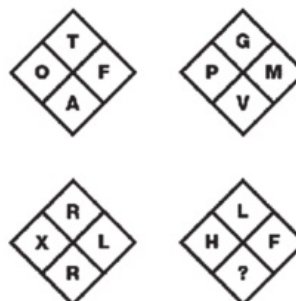
- 1 Float; 6 Indra;
- 7 IT eve; 8 Ropes;
- 9 Tonne

DOWN

- 1 Taped; 2 Liver;
- 3 I noon; 4 A soft;
- 5 Terne

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

13 Average; 15 Good; 17 Outstanding



SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

□ □ □ □ = 13

3 4 7 7

Medium

□ □ □ □ = 25

1 2 3 4

Hard

□ □ □ □ = 34

2 9 5 9

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Woman is thinner. 2. Woman's hat is smaller. 3. Patch is different. 4. Gate number is different. 5. Man's hair is different. 6. Nose is different.

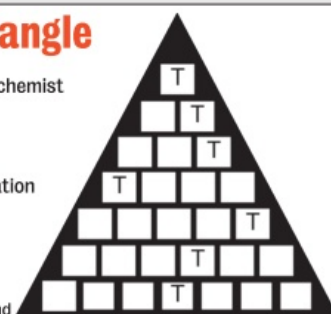
Riddler

Like a tattooed man I found him there, where choices rear their heads. Without a word I asked advice, but not a word he said, Yet from him I learned enough, thanks to a sunny ray. I left him there-perhaps there still-as I went away. Who or what is it?

Alpha triangle

- 1 20th letter
- 2 Astatine for the chemist
- 3 Filled a chair
- 4 Makes brown
- 5 Holy person
- 6 Capital of Texas
- 7 Science of navigation

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

You may feel disconnected from your responsibilities today. Avoid unnecessary spending, as it could lead to negativity at home or work. Stay cautious, as rivals may attempt to deceive you. Read all documents carefully before signing to prevent complications.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

A sense of fear or insecurity may trouble you today, making it difficult to trust others. Try meditation or chanting prayers to calm your mind. By late evening, with the blessings of elders, you may regain clarity and confidence, overcoming this uneasy phase.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

A short business trip may be on the cards, bringing professional growth. Your hard work will be recognised, and your respect in society may increase. Positive news from siblings will uplift your mood. Job seekers in management roles may find success, and singles could get engaged.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Blessings from elders will bring patience and focus to your work. Your parents' health is set to improve, allowing for quality time together. A meeting with an influential person may boost your professional growth. Romance will flourish, bringing harmony to your domestic life.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

The positive influence of the moon will keep you happy. Patience and persistence will pay off in your job, possibly bringing incentives or rewards. Health concerns in the family will improve. Job seekers may find suitable opportunities, and lovebirds will enjoy their time together.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today is a positive day, as Jupiter's blessings bring wisdom and guidance. You may help the needy and offer valuable advice to family and friends, boosting your reputation. However, differences of opinion with your spouse could create tension at home. Maintain patience and understanding.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

A spiritual mindset will guide you today, inspiring you to help the needy and contribute to charity or religious causes. Your good karma will lead to success in challenging projects. A sense of divine presence may help you navigate unexpected situations. Students will find joy in diving deep into their studies.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

You may experience mixed emotions today. Avoid expecting too much from others to prevent disappointment. Self-reflection and analysis will help you filter out negativity and boost confidence. By the end of the day, you'll feel ready to take on new challenges.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Mood swings and low energy levels might affect your routine. Health concerns may slow you down. Avoid reckless driving or adventure activities. Unnecessary expenses could strain your finances, so be mindful of your spending.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Happiness will surround you today. Harmony in your domestic life will bring joy, and romantic moments with your spouse will strengthen your bond. Family support will help you make important professional decisions. New ventures or business partnerships may be on the horizon.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

If you're planning to relocate, it's best to postpone your decision for now. Avoid making business investments today. By the evening, things will start falling into place. Seeking guidance from an elder will help you regain control over any chaotic situation.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Blessings from elders will bring happiness and financial stability. Past losses may turn into gains, strengthening your finances. You might consider investing in your children's future. A joyful meal at home will make the day even more special.



KIDZONE



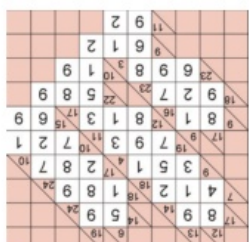
Mugdha R, Bengaluru



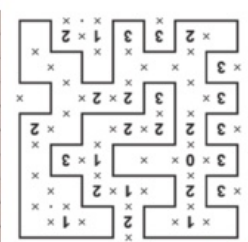
Ananya Vastare, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

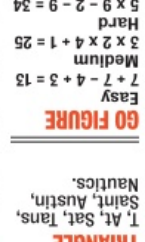
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



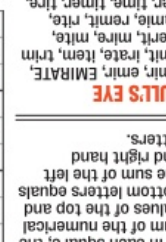
LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



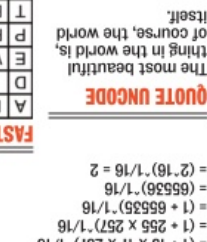
QUICK



STRIKE OUT



RIDDLER



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